

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCI-06 INT-08

RSR-01 /198 W

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R 121200 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5236

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: DECON 11 APR74

TAGS: EAID, OVIP, MA, JA, US

SUBJ: JAPANESE- MALAGASY RELATIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING FONMIN RATSIRAKA'S VISIT JAPANESE EXPECT CONCLUDE AGREEMENT FURNISH PEACE- TYPE VOLUNTEERS TO MADAGASCAR. MALAGASY HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN JAPANESE ASSISTANCE FOR AIRPORT EXPANSION IN SOUTHERN MADAGASCAR AND FOR BIG ROGEZ HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. WE ALSO INTERESTED IN LATTER AS POSSIBLE EXPORT- IMPORT PROJECT TO EXPAND U. S. EXPORTS. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE CHARGE SONOYAMA INFORMED ME APR 11 THAT MALAGASY FONMIN RATSIRAKA ON APR 10 PROPOSED JUNE 1-9 AS DATES FOR HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN (WHICH ALTERS OTHER DATES HE HAD PROPOSED TO JAPANESE FEW DAYS EARLIER). THIS CONFIRMS INFORMATION TANANARIVE 486.

2. CHARGE TOLD ME THAT RATSIRAKA WOULD LIKE SIGN SOME AGREEMENT WHILE IN JAPAN, WHEREAS JAPANESE WOULD PREFER USE VISIT FOR PURPOSE NEGOTIATING SESSIONS. ONLY AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BE READY TO SIGN,
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ACCORDING TO CHARGE, IS ONE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROVIDING JAPANESE PEACE CORPS- TYPE VOLUNTEERS FOR MADAGASCAR.

3. CHARGE STATED MALAGASY SEC GEN OF MIN TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT BEGAN NEGOTIATING, DURING VISIT TO JAPAN IN LATE MARCH, FOR JAPANESE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR EXPANSION OF AIRPORTS IN SOUTHERN MADAGASCAR, AT FORT DAUPHIN AND TULEAR, TO MAKE THEM CAPABLE OF HANDLING JETS.

4. CHARGE ALSO REFERRED TO UNOFFICIAL OR LOWER- LEVEL MALAGASY SOUNDING OUT OF POSSIBLE JAPANESE ASSISTANCE TO ROGEZ HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. CHARGE SEEMED TO BE HINTING THAT JAPANESE WOULD LIKE PURSUE DISCUSSION OF BOTH THIS AND AIRPORT PROJECTS DURING RATSIRAKA VISIT.

5. CHARGE SAID HE TOLD RATSIRAKA THAT JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN ARE HAVING TROUBLE FINDING MALAGASY BUSINESS COUNTERPARTS, PARTICULARLY WITH ANY MONEY, FOR JOINT BUSINESS VENTURES. RATSIRAKA REPLIED THAT JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN SHOULD THEREFORE JOIN WITH MALAGASY GOVT IN JOINT VENTURES. CHARGE TOLD ME JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN ARE IN FACT NEGOTIATING TO DO SO IN CERTAIN FISHERIES VENTURES. TO MY QUERY ABOUT DIVISION OF INVESTMENT AND THUS CONTROL, HE SAID THAT 51 PERCENT OF THESE VENTURES IS GOING TO GOMR BUT JAPANESE APPARENTLY HAVE TO LEND GOMR FUNDS TO GET ITS SHARE UP TO THAT LEVEL. JAPANESE EXPERIENCE HAS NOT YET PROCEEDED FAR ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW WELL THIS TYPE VENTURE WILL OPERATE.

6 COMMENTS: WE ALSO INTERESTED FOR EXPORT EXPANSION PURPOSES IN POSSIBLE EXPORT- IMPORT BANK CREDITS FOR ROGEZ HYDRO PROJECT (BIGGEST PROJECT EVER MOUNTED IN MADAGASCAR, WITH ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF ABOUT \$35 MILLION). IN ADDITION MALAGASY APPROACH TO JAPANESE ON THIS PROJECT, YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR TOLD ME ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO HIS GOVT WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN SUPPLYING FAIRLY LOW INTEREST LAON FOR CERTAIN MACHINERY OF YUGOSLAV ORIGIN FOR THIS PROJECT. HE MENTIONED LOAN OF ABOUT \$5 MILLION AND SAID YUGOSLAVIA HAS ALREADY MADE SIMILAR TO KENYA FOR YUGOSLAV ELECTRICAL MACHINERY. SUBSEQUENT PRESS COMMENT CONFIRMED THAT PROJECT DISCUSSED BETWEEN HIM AND MALAGASY OFFICIALS.
MENDENHALL

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